



The association between overall health, psychological distress, and occupational heat stress among a large national cohort of 40,913 Thai workers

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Abstract:

BACKGROUND: Occupational heat stress is a well-known problem, particularly in tropical countries, affecting workers, health and well-being. There are very few recent studies that have reported on the effect of heat stress on mental health, or overall health in workers, although socioeconomic development and rapid urbanization in tropical developing countries like Thailand create working conditions in which heat stress is likely. **OBJECTIVE:** This study is aimed at identifying the relationship between self-reported heat stress and psychological distress, and overall health status in Thai workers. **RESULTS:** 18% of our large national cohort (>40,000 subjects) often works under heat stress conditions and males are exposed to heat stress more often than females. Furthermore, working under heat stress conditions is associated with both worse overall health and psychological distress (adjusted odds ratios ranging from 1.49 to 1.84). **CONCLUSIONS:** This association between occupational heat stress and worse health needs more public health attention and further development on occupational health interventions as climate change increases Thailand's temperatures.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2871739>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Rural, Tropical, Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Non-United States: Asia

Asian Region/Country: Other Asian Country

Other Asian Country: Thailand

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact, Mental Health/Stress

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Other Mental Disorder

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status, Workers

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified